This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Original) A method for extraction and concentration of hydrophilic compounds dispersed or distributed in hydrophobic liquid matrices comprising the following steps:
 - a) providing a sample of a hydrophobic liquid;
 - b) adding an aqueous capture solution containing at least one extractant to said sample;
 - c) mixing said sample and said capture solution thoroughly;
 - d) allow the aqueous phase to separate from the sample phase;
 - e) measure the compound in the aqueous phase.
- 2. (Original) An aqueous capture solution containing at least one extractant, said extractant in said capture solution improving the yield of a hydrophilic compound extracted from a hydrophobic matrix.
- 3. (Original) A capture solution according to claim 2, wherein said extractant is selected out of the group consisting of amphoteric or anionic phospholipids and anionic surfactants.
- 4. (Original) A capture solution according to claim 3, wherein said extractant is a lecithin.
- 5. (Currently Amended) A capture solution according to at least one of the claims 2 to 4 Claim 2 containing more than one extractant.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A capture solution according to at least one of the claims 2 to 5 Claim 2 containing a non-ionic surfactant in addition to the extractant(s).

- 2 -

DOCKET NO.: MERCK-3133

- 7. (Currently Amended) A capture solution according to at least one of the claims 2 to 6 Claim 2 containing a water-soluble dye in an amount to allow good visibility of the aqueous phase.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A reagent kit for extracting a hydrophilic compound from a hydrophobic matrix and detection of said hydrophilic compound comprising a capture solution according to at least one of the claims 2 to 7 Claim 2.